



Your Illinois National Guard

*Proudly Serving
State & Nation*

Illinois National Guard

The Illinois National Guard, a joint Army and Air Force organization, operates under the Illinois Department of Military Affairs and is led by the Adjutant General, a two-star general appointed by the Governor.

The Illinois Army National Guard is approximately 10,000 strong, while the Illinois Air National Guard comprises about 3,200, for a combined strength of approximately 13,200 members. Together, they form an essential part of our national security team.

We are active participants in the full spectrum of military operations. Today's Illinois National Guard is an integral part of the military's "total force" and Illinois Guardsmen have been called to duty in virtually every major U.S. military operation around the world in recent years – from the Balkans, to Central and South America, the Persian Gulf and around the globe. In addition, we provide the state with a quick response capability for local emergencies, natural disaster relief and civil disturbances.



Leadership

■ **Governor**

The Governor is Commander in Chief of the Illinois National Guard.

■ **President**

The President is Commander in Chief of Illinois National Guard units and individuals when they are federally activated.

Federal Mission

To provide units of well-trained, fully-qualified and well-equipped personnel in time of war, national emergency or other federal activation to support the Army and Air Force.

State Mission

To provide units organized, equipped and trained to protect life and property and preserve peace, order and public safety under orders of the Governor.



Our proud heritage

The heritage of the Illinois National Guard dates back to colonial times. From its beginnings as a French, and later a British colony, Illinois maintained a militia that saw extensive service on the frontier and through the Revolutionary War period.

After statehood in 1818 and throughout the 19th century, the Illinois volunteer militia continued its role. The Illinois militia made the largest contribution of personnel to the Union during the Civil War and served with distinction in the Mexican and Spanish-American Wars.



During the 20th Century, the Illinois Guard played major roles in both World Wars. Illinois was one of the first states to form aviation units, which later became part of the Air Force. In addition, Illinois Guardsmen have been called upon throughout our state's history to provide support for everything from riot control to disaster relief and flood control.

In Korea, Vietnam, Operation Desert Storm and around the world today, Illinois citizen-soldiers have answered the call to service, performing vital roles benefiting our state and nation.

Illinois Army National Guard

With more than 10,000 members, the Illinois Army National Guard plays a vital and growing role in United States defense initiatives around the world, as well as supporting the state in times of need.

In recent years, Illinois citizen-soldiers have increasingly been asked to support "operations other than war." They have taken part in humanitarian relief and nation-building efforts in Central and South America, peacekeeping



support in the troubled Balkan region and training and assistance to emerging democracies in former Soviet Bloc nations like Poland and Ukraine.

The major units comprising the Illinois Army National Guard are: State Area Command, headquartered in Springfield; 33rd Area Support Group, headquartered in Chicago; 65th Troop Command Brigade, headquartered in Springfield; and 66th Infantry Brigade, headquartered in Decatur.

The Illinois Army National Guard maintains 53 armories spread across Illinois. Other facilities include a state headquarters, centrally located at Camp Lincoln in Springfield, two outdoor weapons ranges, three training areas and 43 vehicle storage/maintenance buildings throughout the state.

Illinois Air National Guard

The Illinois Air National Guard is part of the air reserve component and supports the United States Air Force in meeting its worldwide commitments and responsibilities.

The structure for the Illinois Air National Guard is made up of more than 3,000 personnel comprising a state headquarters unit, three wings and five smaller mission-separated units. Each unit has a distinctive mission and is a part of today's expeditionary Air Force.



The Illinois Air National Guard maintains large flying bases at two major civilian airports and one on an active U.S. Air Force Base. Each base supports a specialized operational flying organization with F-16C fighter, C-130E airlift and KC-135E refueling aircraft.

Major Illinois Air National Guard units are: Headquarters Illinois Air Guard, Springfield; 126th Air Refueling Wing, Scott AFB, Belleville; 182nd Airlift Wing, Peoria; and 183rd Fighter Wing, Springfield. The mission of the 126th is in-flight air refueling. The 182nd is responsible for theater or tactical airlift, delivering equipment and personnel throughout the world. The 183rd's mission is to maintain a ready force of F-16s, equipment and personnel in support of air defense, air interdiction and suppression of enemy forces.

Making a difference

Because we live and work in communities throughout the state, the Illinois National Guard enjoys the well-earned reputation of being a good neighbor in the cities and towns where we have armories and air bases.



We're also seen as good neighbors because of ongoing Illinois National Guard-sponsored programs which are helping to make a difference in Illinois communities across the state.



Programs like the Your Choice program, a cooperative drug awareness/intervention program between the Illinois National Guard and local community agencies to enhance the quality of life for Illinois youth ...

Or the Lincoln's Challenge Academy, which helps high school drop-outs earn their GEDs and get their lives back on the right track .

The long tradition of community service by Illinois soldiers and airmen has helped to build the positive reputation we enjoy today.



We're good neighbors because we quite literally "are your neighbors." You see us everyday. We're the teacher in the classroom, the cop on the beat, the mechanic who fixes your car, or the doctor who treats you when you're sick.



MILITARY DISCIPLINE
WORDS OF COMMAND
DIRECTIONS

**OFFICE OF THE
ADJUTANT GENERAL**

**ILLINOIS NATIONAL GUARD
CAMP LINCOLN**

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